Claims:

1. A method for producing a substrate blank that is an intermediate for a substrate, which comprises press-molding a glass in a softened state with a mold having an upper mold member and a lower mold member to produce the substrate blank having the form of a thin plate, wherein the glass in a softened state is press-molded without causing any surrounding edge portion of the blank under the production to come into contact with the mold, to produce the substrate blank at least having no notch portion.

2. A method for producing a substrate blank that is an intermediate for a substrate, which comprises press-molding a glass in a softened state with a mold having an upper mold member and a lower mold member to produce the substrate blank having the form of a thin plate, wherein the glass in a softened state is press-molded without causing any surrounding edge portion of the blank under the production to come into contact with the mold, to produce the substrate blank having flat front and reverse surfaces and a surface formed of the surrounding edge portion.

3. A method for producing a substrate blank that is an intermediate for a substrate, which comprises press-molding a glass in a softened state with a mold having an upper mold member and a lower mold member to produce the substrate blank having the form of a thin plate, wherein the glass in a softened state is press-molded without causing any surrounding edge portion of the blank under the production to come into contact with the mold, to produce the substrate blank having a thickness whose minimum value is greater than the maximum value of thickness of a glass substrate to be obtained from said substrate blank.

4. A method for producing a substrate blank that is an intermediate for a substrate, which comprises press-molding

a glass in a softened state with a mold having an upper mold member and a lower mold member to produce the substrate blank having the form of a thin plate, wherein the glass in a softened state is press-molded without causing any surrounding edge portion of the blank under the production to come into contact with the mold, to produce the substrate blank having a large-thickness portion and a small-thickness portion whose thickness is the smallest, the small-thickness portion having a larger area than the large-thickness portion.

5. The method of claim 3 or 4, wherein the substrate blank is formed to have one of a structure in which the substrate blank has a small-thickness portion in a central portion and a large-thickness portion in a circumferential portion, a structure in which the substrate has a large-thickness portion in a central portion and a small-thickness portion in a circumferential portion, and a structure in which the blank has a large-thickness portion in each of a central portion and a circumferential portion and a small-thickness portion between the circumferential portion and the central portion.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a molten glass as the glass in a softened state is supplied onto the lower mold member and press-molded.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mold having upper and lower mold members is adjusted to have a lower temperature than the glass in a softened state to press-mold the glass.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the substrate blank has the form of a disk.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the substrate blank has a thickness whose minimum value and

maximum value are both in the range of from 0.8 mm to 2.2 mm.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the substrate blank is for use as an intermediate for a substrate for an information recording medium.

11. A method for producing a substrate, which comprises cutting and polishing the substrate blank produced by the method recited in any one of claims 1 to 4.

12. The method of claim 11, which further comprises the step of heat treatment for crystallizing the glass.

13. A method for producing an information recording medium, which comprises preparing a substrate blank for an information recording medium according to the method recited in claim 10, cutting and polishing said substrate blank to produce a substrate for an information recording medium, and forming an information recording layer on the substrate.